IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A wireless communication device comprising:

a data storage area comprising instructions executable by the wireless communication device and a plurality of device drivers corresponding to a plurality of hardware components;

a modular hardware detector configured to detect a new hardware component connected to the wireless communication device to replace a previous hardware component having a previous device driver of the plurality of device drivers, the modular hardware detector further configured to query the new hardware component to obtain profile information from the new hardware component, the hardware component further configured to obtain a size of the previous device driver and to obtain a size of a new device driver for the new hardware component to determine a need to allocate space in the data storage area for the new device driver;

a runtime engine configured to receive the profile information for the new hardware component from the modular hardware detector and to compile a request for ~~a~~ the new device driver for the new hardware component, the request having a data payload comprising at least a portion of the profile information.

2. (original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a server opcode library housed in the data storage area, the server opcode library comprising server operation codes corresponding to instructions executable by a remote server.

3. (original) The system of claim 2, further comprising a handset opcode library housed in the data storage area, the handset opcode library comprising device operation codes corresponding to instructions executable by the wireless communication device.

4. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the profile information comprises an identifier that uniquely identifies the new hardware component.

5. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, ~~wherein the modular hardware detector is further configured to obtain a size of the previous device driver and to obtain a size of the new device driver for the new hardware component to determine the need to allocate space in the data storage area for the new device driver~~ wherein the data storage area is a persistent storage area, the wireless communication device further comprising a volatile storage area for temporarily storing the previous device driver until the new device driver is successfully stored in the data storage area.

6. (currently amended) The system of claim 1 ~~5~~, wherein the size of the previous device driver is obtained from at least one of an operating system of the wireless communication device and an update server over a wireless communication network.

7. (currently amended) A method for field replacement of a previous hardware component in a wireless communication device, comprising:

detecting ~~a presence of~~ a new hardware component in the wireless communication device, the new hardware component replacing a previous hardware component having a previous device driver;

querying the new hardware component to obtain profile information for the new hardware component;

sending a request to an update server via a wireless communication network, the request comprising at least a portion of the profile information; ~~and~~

receiving a response from the update server via the wireless communication network, wherein the response comprises an executable device driver for the new hardware component and installation instructions;

determining a previous device driver size of the previous device driver;

determining an executable device driver size of the executable device driver;

determining a need to allocate space in a persistent storage of the wireless communication device for the executable device driver based upon a comparison between the previous device driver size and the executable device driver size.

8. (original) The method of claim 7, further comprising the steps of:

installing the executable device driver; and

configuring the new hardware component.

9. (original) The method of claim 7, wherein the profile information comprises an identifier that uniquely identifies the new hardware component.

10. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein the request sent to the update server comprises the identifier.

11. (original) The method of claim 7, wherein the detecting step is initiated by at least one of a power on sequence and a user request.

12. (original) The method of claim 7, wherein the sending step further comprises:

compiling a server instruction set having a corresponding data payload;

including an identifier for the new hardware component in the data payload; and

sending the server instruction set and the data payload to the update server.

13. (original) The method of claim 12, wherein the server instruction set comprises non-executable operation codes.

14. (original) The method of claim 7, wherein the receiving the response from the update server step further comprises:

receiving a handset instruction set having a sequence of operation codes and a corresponding data payload;

extracting the corresponding data payload, wherein the corresponding data payload comprises the executable device driver;

translating the sequence of operation codes into a set of executable instructions comprising the installation instructions; and

executing the set of executable instructions to install the executable device driver.

15. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein the executing the set of executable instructions step is carried out within a runtime engine operating on the wireless communication device.

16. (currently amended) The method of claim 7, further comprising:

determining that ~~a size of~~ the previous device driver size is greater than ~~the size of~~ the executable device driver size;

copying the previous device driver from the ~~a~~ persistent storage to a volatile storage;

deleting the previous device driver from the persistent storage; and

storing the executable device driver for the new hardware component in at least a portion of a location in the persistent storage previously occupied by the previous device driver.

17. (original) The method of claim 16, further comprising the steps of:

testing the executable device driver for the new hardware component to determine its validity;

deleting the previous device driver from the volatile storage if the executable device driver is valid; and

restoring the previous device driver from the volatile storage to its previous location in the persistent storage if the executable device driver is not valid, wherein the previous device driver is used to communicate with the new hardware module.

18. (currently amended) The method of claim 7, further comprising:

determining that ~~a size of~~ the previous device driver size is smaller than ~~the size of~~ the executable device driver size;

allocating a new storage space in the ~~a~~ persistent storage, the new storage space sufficient to store the executable device driver for the new hardware component; and

storing the executable device driver for the new hardware component in the new storage space.

19. (original) The method of claim 18, further comprising the steps of:

validating the executable device driver for the new hardware component;

deleting the previous device driver from persistent storage if the executable device driver is valid; and

using the previous device driver to communicate with the new hardware component if the executable device driver is not valid.

20. (original) A method for interchanging a plurality of hardware components on a wireless communication device, comprising the steps of:

providing a data storage area for storing instructions executable by the wireless communication device and for storing a plurality of device drivers corresponding to a plurality of hardware components;

replacing a previous hardware component having a previous device driver of the plurality of device drivers with the new hardware component;

detecting the new hardware component utilizing a modular hardware detector;

querying the new hardware component utilizing the modular hardware detector to obtain profile information from the new hardware component;

providing a runtime engine configured to receive the profile information for the new hardware component from the modular hardware detector and to compile a request to an update server coupled to a wireless communications network for a new device driver for the new hardware component, the request having a data payload comprising at least a portion of the profile information;

receiving a response from the update server via the wireless communication network, wherein the response comprises an executable device driver for the new hardware component; and

storing the executable device driver in the data storage area.